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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56771

Title: "When All Tests Are Normal: Steroid Responsiveness as a Key Diagnostic Argument for Multiple Sclerosis in Pediatric Optic Neuritis"

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minorrevision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- The manuscript addresses a clinically relevant and challenging diagnostic scenario in pediatric optic neuritis where paraclinical tests are inconclusive.
- The case presentation provides comprehensive clinical, radiological, and laboratory data, which enhances the validity of the diagnostic reasoning.
- The emphasis on steroid responsiveness as a diagnostic tool contributes valuable insight, especially in cases lacking definitive tests for demyelinating diseases.
- The discussion contextualizes the case within existing literature, highlighting the importance of clinical judgment in diagnosis.
- Clear descriptions of ophthalmological and electrophysiological findings strengthen the clinical depth of the paper.

Weaknesses of the Study

- The study is based on a single case report, limiting the generalizability of its conclusions.
- No long-term follow-up data are provided to confirm the diagnosis or monitor disease progression.
- The paper lacks a detailed description of the criteria used to exclude other differential diagnoses, especially hereditary or infectious etiologies.
- The methodology of the diagnostic tests, including specific imaging parameters or standard protocols, is not sufficiently detailed.
- The statistical analysis is not applicable due to the case report format, but the discussion could benefit from a more critical appraisal of the diagnostic approach.
- Ethical considerations such as approval from an institutional review board and informed consent from the patient or guardians are not mentioned.
- The English language and grammar could be improved for clarity and conciseness; minor typographical errors are present.
- References are appropriate but could be updated or expanded with recent studies for a more comprehensive literature review.

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Reviewer Comments

- **Title and Abstract Clarity:** The title accurately reflects the focus of the paper. The abstract summarizes the key points effectively but could be more concise and explicitly state the implications for clinical practice.
- **Introduction and Objectives:** The introduction provides a solid background but would benefit from a clearer statement of the study's specific objectives and the rationale for highlighting steroid responsiveness.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis:** As a case report, formal statistical analysis is not necessary, but a more detailed description of diagnostic criteria, imaging protocols, and laboratory tests would enhance reproducibility. Ethical approval and informed consent should be explicitly mentioned if applicable.
- **Results and Discussion:** The case presentation is thorough. The discussion logically interprets findings but should critically assess limitations such as the lack of specific biomarkers and the need for follow-up. Including differential diagnosis management strategies would be valuable.
- **Conclusion and Implications:** The conclusion appropriately emphasizes the importance of clinical reasoning and therapeutic response. However, it should acknowledge the limitations of the case report and suggest directions for future research.
- **Ethical Clearance:** There is no mention of ethical approval or informed consent, which is a necessary consideration even for case reports.
- **Language and Presentation:** The manuscript would benefit from a meticulous language review for grammar, clarity, and coherence. Some sentences are overly long and can be simplified.
- **Tables, Figures, Formatting, References:** Figures and descriptions are appropriate but should be labeled clearly and referenced within the text. Formatting should adhere to journal standards for headings, citations, and references. The reference list is relevant but could include more recent studies if available.